

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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72

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 SIL-01 USIA-12 LAB-06 AID-20

/049 W

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R 091526 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1014

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2759

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, XF

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION STAGS 1973

REF: STATE 42608

1. IN VIEW OF STATED AIM OF TRADE UNION STAGS (REFTEL)
TO " ESTABLISH USEFUL CONTACTS AMONG FOREIGN COUNTER-
PARTS" RATHER THAN ENGAGING IN LECTURES, SEMINARS OR
WORKSHOPS, BELIEVE ANY ONE OR TWO OF NAMED PARTICIPANTS
COULD BE USEFULLY PROGRAMMED IN LEBANON. THIS ESPECIALLY
TRUE IN VIEW OF OFT- REPEATED EMBASSY POSITION THAT
MORE AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISTS SHOULD VISIT MIDDLE EAST
TO COUNTERBALANCE STRONGLY- HELD ARAB TRADE UNION VIEW-
POINT THAT AMERICAN UNIONS INTERESTED SOELY IN ISRAEL.

2. BECAUSE OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS FACING RAILROADS IN
LEBANON, MIGHT BE PARICULARLY USEFUL TO PROGRAM
THEODORE DYCK AND/ OR JAMES HILL IN LEBANON. ADDITIONALLY,
LARGE NUMBER UNIONIZED AIRLINE EMPLOYEES MAKE THIS CHOICE
ATTRACTIVE.

3. BECAUSE OF FACT THAT MOST INFLUENTIAL LEBANESE TRADE
UNIONISTS UNAVILABLE FOR CONTACT DURING PERIOD MIDDLE
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JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER, BELIEVE STAGS SHOULD BE PROGRAMMED
EITHER PRIOR TO OR AFTER THIS PERIOD.

4. REGIONAL LABATT BELIEVES STAGS MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL
IN AMMAN AND NICOSIA. IN BAHRAIN, WHICH HAS RECENTLY
MOVED TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF TRADE UNIONS UNDER TERMS
OF NEW, NOT- YET- ADOPTED CONSTITUTION, USEFULNESS OF STAGS
IS MORE PROBLEMATIC AND A QUESTION OF TIMING. IN ALL
THREE CASES, LABATT OPINION IS JUST THAT AND SUBJECT,
OF COURSE, TO POST COMMENT. IN VIEW OF CURRENT SAUDI
ATTITUDE TOWARD WHOLE SUBJECT TRADE UNIONS, STAGS WOULD
NOT RPT NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR JIDDA.
BUFFUM

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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CU
JIDDA
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